



State of Connecticut

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Judiciary Committee Monday, March 24, 2014

Testimony in Support of, H.B. 5585, An Act Concerning Surveillance of Cell Phone Communication by Law Enforcement Officials

Good morning Chairman Fox, Chairman Coleman, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Rebimbas, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee

Thank you for permitting me to submit testimony in favor of H.B.5585, *An Act Concerning Surveillance of Cell Phone Communication by Law Enforcement Officials*.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to ensure that wiretapping of cellphones by law enforcement officials is conducted in accordance with applicable state or federal law. We must continue to protect the security interests and liberties of our citizens.

Wiretapping per se, is restricted by established law, but there are no state statutes dictating when law enforcement must obtain a warrant before accessing location information or other data from cellular services, such as text messages.

In recent years, law enforcement officials have been shifting away from conventional wiretapping in favor of other forms of cell tracking that are generally less legally burdensome, less time consuming, and less costly.

We must strike a balance between the ability to fight crime and the privacy rights of Connecticut citizens. I want to be very clear that the intent of this proposed legislation is to clarify state law and protect the rights of our citizens, not hinder police departments from gathering data to solve crimes or to protect the public safety of our citizens. To that end, I ask that you are respectful of these exigent circumstances when you craft the final version of this bill. Thank you for considering H.B. 5585.

Christie Carpino, State Representative, 32nd District